Discussion

In July, a state team of educators participated in an annual conference hosted by The Education Trust, in conjunction with the National Association of System Heads. National policy leaders identified key issues affecting academic quality and equitable access for students throughout the P-12 and postsecondary systems. Other sessions featured successful local programs. The conference provided working sessions in which the Kentucky team used recent national research and other states' experiences to identify policy questions for Kentucky.

The Kentucky team, led and organized by Lois Adams-Rodgers and Dianne M. Bazell, included Karen Adams (Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, Western Kentucky University), Lydia Carol Gabbard (Chair, P-16 Council), Kyna Koch (Associate Commissioner for Finance, Kentucky Department of Education), Starr Lewis (Associate Commissioner, KDE), Carolyn O'Daniel (Executive Director of Academic Affairs, Kentucky Community and Technical College System), and Marilyn L. Troupe (Director of Teacher Education at the Education Professional Standards Board).

P-16 Council Chair Carol Gabbard will lead a discussion on the policy issues and work plan proposed by the Kentucky team. (See attached.)

Staff Preparation by Lois Adams-Rodgers and Dianne M. Bazell

1. **Policy question: How much education is "basic"? If we agree that a high school diploma is not enough and that some postsecondary education is necessary to function economically in the global society of the 21st century, should "high school plus 2" (grade 14) be the minimum education goal for all Kentuckians?**
   - Aligning pre-college curriculum and high school diploma requirements
   - Aligning vocational education and the pre-college curriculum
   - Defining the role of individual graduation plans
   - Revising KEES policy
   - Improving articulation and transfer

2. **Policy question: What would it take to create a truly "seamless" P-16 system that would provide continuous assessment of student performance and allow students to advance without impediments?**
   - Changing reward mechanisms and funding formulas to remove impediments to student academic advancement
   - Increasing dual credit opportunities between high schools and postsecondary institutions and increasing Advanced Placement opportunities
   - Integrating adult education programs and policies

3. **Policy question: How can standards for teaching quality and diversity be raised without increasing teacher shortages?**
   - **P-12:**
     - Developing recruitment, induction, and retention strategies
     - Utilizing alternative routes to certification
     - Providing professional development focused on student learning
   - **Postsecondary Institutions:**
     - Providing faculty rewards for working with P-12 teachers
     - Integrating arts and sciences and other content disciplines with teacher education
     - Providing graduate program training in effective undergraduate teaching
     - Offering faculty rewards for developing effective introductory courses and teaching strategies

4. **Policy question: What integrated data systems do we need, within and among agencies, to guide us in developing and modifying policies?**

5. **Policy question: What mechanisms are needed to help new local P-16 councils work with each other and with the state P-16 Council?**

6. **Policy question: What refinements should be made in the current makeup and charge of the P-16 Council?**

7. **Policy question: How can we connect the P-16 Plan of Work with the member boards?**